

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 NEA-10
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R 270904Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4261

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 3019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, BM, CH, KN

SUBJ: NE WIN'S VISIT TO PRC, DPRK

REF: (A) RANGOON 2819, (B) RANGOON 2883 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT NE WIN PAID A "FRIENDHH VISIT" TO CHINA SEPTEMBER 16-20 AND A "STATE VISIT" TO NORTH KOREA SEPTEMBER 20-23. IN CHINA, HE WAS ACCORDED CONSIDERABLE HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION, PARTICULARLY BY TENG HSIAO-PING, AND THE VISIT WAS PROCLAIMED SUCCESSFUL. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT PROGRESS IF ANY NE WIN WAS ABLE TO MAKE TOWARD HIS GOAL OF INDUCING THE PRC TO CURTAIL ITS SUPPORT FOR THE BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP) INSURGENTS. THE BURMESE ARE HOPING FOR A RETURN VISIT BY ONE OF THE CHINESE LEADERS.

2. THE VISIT TO NORTH KOREA WAS ALSO PROCLAIMED SUCCESSFUL, AND IT DTS SEEM TO HAVE PRODUCED USEFUL RESULTS FROM THE POING OF VIEW OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND TO HAVE BROADENED THE SCOPE OF THEIR RELATIONS. BURMA ENDORSED THE DPRK POSITION
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ON KOREAN ISSUES, AND THE DPRK ENDORSED THE BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY. (NE WIN VALUES THIS INDICATION OF SUPPORT FROM AN ASIAN COMMUNIST PARTY BECAUSE THE CHINESE SUPPORT THE BCP.) AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREE-

MENT WAS SIGNED, AND FURTHER EXCHANGE VISITS ARE EXPECTED, INCLUDING A VISIT TO BURMA BY KIM IL SUNG AT AN UNSPECIFIED

FUTURE TIME. END SUMMARY.

3. EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS NE WIN'S SECOND VISIT TO CHINA IN FOUR MONTHS, HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN AMPLE HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION BY THE CHINESE. HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG AND VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING, HAD TALKS THE FOLLOWING DAY WITH BOTH, WAS GIVEN A BANQUET BY TENG, AND WAS TAKEN TO THE MAO MAUSOLEUM AS WELL AS MUSEUMS, COMMUNES, ETC. IN HIS BANQUET TOAST, TENG PROCLAIMED THE VISIT "A COMPLETE SUCCESS" AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL DEVELOP CONSTANTLY." NE WIN, IN HIS TOAST, SAID HE WAS "LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING AND RECEIVING CHINESE LEADERS IN BURMA." (THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY HIGHLIGHTED IN A RANGOON WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL. NE WIN PROBABLY URGED TENG TO PAY A VISIT BUT WAS UNABLE TO GET A FIRM COMMITMENT THAT HE WOULD DO SO.)

4. WE DO NOT KNOW IF NE WIN SUCCEEDED IN HIS PRIMARY PURPOSE, TO INDUCE THE CHINESE TO CURTAIL THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY (REF A). A BURMESE JOURNALIST TOLD US THAT THE CHINESE AGREED NOT TO SUPPLY THE BCP WITH WEAPONS ALTHOUGH "MORAL SUPPORT" FOR THE BCP WOULD CONTINUE. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCURATE, AND EVEN IF ACCURATE IS STILL AMBIGUOUS, E.E., DOES "MORAL SUPPORT" INCLUDE MILITARY TRAINING, ETC.?

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5. WE WILL TRY TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON THIS AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

6. THE BURMESE PRESS USED KCNA REPORTAGE TO COVER THE NORTH KOREA PORTION OF THE TRIP, AND THE STORIES WERE CONSEQUENTLY REplete WITH TYPICAL NORTH KOREAN BOMBAST. NE WIN WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY "THE GREAT LEADER COMRAD KIM IL SUNG" AND WELCOMED BY "HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS" OF CHEERING PEOPLE ALONG THE ROAD FROM THE AIRPORT TO TOWN. THE PRESIDENTS HAD OFFICIAL TALKS ON TWO OCCASIONS AND REACHED AN "IDENTITY OF VIEWS" ON "PROBLEMS OF COMMON CONCERN" WHICH WERE DISCUSSED. KIM IL SUNG GAVE A BANQUET AND A LUNCHEON FOR NE WIN, AND TOOK HIM TO A PERFORMANCE BY THE MANSUDAE ART GROUP WHICH WAS "ACCLAIMED BY THE GUESTS AND AUDIENCE FOR ITS HIGH IDEOLOGICAL VALUE" AND MET WITH "STORMY CHEERS" FOR AN ENCORE OF "THE SONG OF GENERAL KIM IL SUNG".

7. NE WIN'S BANQUET SPEECH WAS TYPICALLY BLAND AND LACKING IN SUBSTANCE. IN HIS SPEECH, KIM IL SUNG PRAISED BURMA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY AND NE WIN'S "CORRECT LEADERSHIP", AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BURMA'S PRO-DPRK VOTE AT THE 1975 UNGA. HE SAID THE VISIT OPENED A "NEW EPOCH IN THE

DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND STATED THAT IN THE FUTURE THERE WILL BE "MORE FREQUENT FRIENDLY VISITS AND CONTACTS."

8. IN THE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WAS DRAFTED IN RANGOON BEFORE THE TRIP (SEE REF B), THE DPRK GOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF ITS POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTIONS AND THE GUB GOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY (BSPP). NE WIN "EXPRESSED HIS FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA AND ALSO FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA UNDER THE FLAG OF THE U.N. AND THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BY A PEACE AGREEMENT. HE MAINTAINED THAT THE PROBLEM OF KOREA'S REUNIFICATION SHOULD BE SETTLED
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INDEPENDENTLY BY THE KOREAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES FREE FROM ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." KIM IL SUNG "HIGHLY APPRECIATED THE SUCCESSES REGISTERED BY THE BURMESE PEOPLE.....UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT U NE WIN AND THE BSPP." ALSO, THE TWO SIDES EXCHANGED VIEWS ON "FURTHER EXPANDING AND DEVELOPING THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA AND THE BSPP." (COMMENT: THE BSPP HAS LONG HAD FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. NE WIN PARTICULARLY VALUES THIS INCREASED RECOGNITION FROM AN ASIAN COMMUNIST PARTY BECAUSE THE CHINESE SUPPORT THE GUB'S MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY, THE BCP.)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 3019

9. ALSO IN THE COMMUNIQUE, BOTH SIDES SUPPORTED THE "JUST STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR THE RESTORATION OF THEIR NATIONAL RIGHTS INCLUDING THEIR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT STATE AND OF THE ARAB PEOPLE TO REGAIN THEIR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES."

10. FINALLY, NE WIN INVITED KIM IL SUNG TO VISIT BURMA "AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME", AND THE INVITIATION WAS ACCEPTED.

11. THE COUNSELOR OF THE ROK EMBASSY ERE TRIED TO MINIMIZE THE DEGREE OF BURMA'S TILT TOWARD THE DPRK BY SAYING THAT THE COMMUNIQUE'S FORMULATION ON KOREAN ISSUES WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THE PRO-DPRK RESOLUTION IN THE 1975 UNGA FOR WHICH BURMA VOTED. HOWEVER, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE KWP AND BSPP CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS SETBACK FROM THE ROK POINT OF VIEW. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE EXPECTS A NUMBER OF NORTH KOREAN CULTURAL AND OTHER DELEGATIONS TO VISIT BURMA IN THE COMING MONTHS.

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12. THE TWO COUNTRIES SIGNED AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT DURING THE VISIT, BUT ITS CONTENT WAS NOT REPORTED.
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